

MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Acts 2:41-47

Manifestations of a Spirit-filled ministry:

1. Souls saved. Acts 2:41

Gladly received his word: joyfully, readily, willingly, freely, cheerfully.

Receive: to take fully, welcome, approve, accept, receive (gladly).

His word: Doctrine.

Were baptized: *water baptism, here.* Acts 2:38

...about three thousand souls. kept count.

Implies were those who did not gladly receive his word.

And the same day— Peter started preaching around 9 AM.

Where baptized? Baptismal pools around the temple. Or, a stream
...added unto them— To body of believers.

Souls: Individuals.

Possible for church to grow quickly and spontaneously as result of Holy Spirit.

2. Consistent diet of the Word of God—*continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine....*

Continued steadfastly: adhered to; to attend to; to remain by ones' side; to not leave or forsake.

Clark: *They received it, retained it, and acted on its principles.*

The apostle's doctrine: teaching and instruction.

Thirsty for doctrine. 1 Pet 2:2

Fellowship: community; oneness of spirit. Closeness in association.

3. Communication and communion. *And fellowship.*

1 John 2:19

Child of God created with innate desire to be in church.

And: and, also even, merely.

When a person is in the word he will desire fellowship with other believers.

4. Meals together — *and in breaking of bread*, eating meals together.

Maybe Lord's supper.

Symbolic of close and intimate friendship

5. Prayer – *and in prayers:* manifestation of Holy Spirit

When God involved there is prayer!

Result of prayer in **Acts 4:31** *And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where ...*

Three things true when Church prayed:

1. God's presence was manifested.

The place was shaken... This is a phrase which tells us that God's presence was alive and well.

How: **Acts 4:24** ... *with one accord,*

What happened **Acts 4:31** ... *they were all filled with the Holy Ghost....* every member

2. God's Power was Given

1. Acknowledged the sovereign Lordship of God.

Acts 4:24

2. Recognized themselves as God's submissive servants.

Acts 4:29

3. God's Purpose Accomplished

Acts 4:33 ... *great ... great grace...*

Great Power: ability, strength

Witness: Testify, testimony.

Results of Spirit-filled ministry

1. Spiritual Impact. **Acts 2:43** *And fear came upon every soul.*

Sense of awe. Sensed power and presence of God

2. Supernatural

Wonders: awesome and remarkable things that happened in relation to the ministry of Christ.

Signs: visible proofs that Jesus was God.

Purpose: be in awe of power of God and truth of the Gospel.

3. Mutual Caring for one another-- **Acts 2:44** *And all that believed were together,*

People closely intermixed. Met together.

and had all things common; Shared by all or several

Barnes: They regarded themselves as one family, having common needs, and there was no use or propriety in their possessing extensive property by themselves. Yet even then it is probable that some of them retained an interest in their property which was not supposed to be necessary to be devoted to the common use.

Phillips: *This was no cold charity. This was the Body at work. This was the hand caring for the foot, the eye looking out for the ear. This was love, not law; compassion, not compulsion. The communist ideal is noble enough, but it breaks down because it leaves out God and relies on force.*

4. Sacrifice-- **Acts 2:45**

Sold their possessions and goods: Sold what necessary to help provide for needs of others.

Acts 2:46 ...in the temple,

FF Bruce: *... Solomon's colonnade, running along the east side of the outer court (cf. 3:11; 5:12).*

Everett F. Harrison: *Judaism had several sects, each with its special emphasis, and all were free to use the temple. Even Gentiles could use it in part. ...*

...breaking bread from house to house, Not Lord's Supper.

Fellowship in homes.

with gladness, exultation; (exceeding) joy.

and singleness of heart: Hearts not tainted with impure things.

Hearts that are satisfied and grateful.

Clear conscience.

Acts 2:47 Praising God, to set a price on, to express approval of; to commend worth of; to admire, to extol, to exalt, to worship, to laud the glory of; glorify. To make to look good.

Favour: people admired them. The people were drawn...

Wiersbe: *In spite of the opposition of the rulers, the common people were drawn to the believers because something new and exciting was happening. ...*

And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Mat 16:18 *... I will build my church;*

John 12:32 *I... will draw all men unto me.*

John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...*

SO WHAT?

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3. Communication and communion.
4. Meals together
5. Prayer

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2. Supernatural
3. Mutual Caring for one another
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